

29. The method of claim ~~25~~ wherein said agent further comprises a powder and diluent.

30. In a method comprising ultrasound imaging, the improvement comprising enhancing the contrast in an ultrasound image by selecting for use as an enhancing agent microbubbles of a gas including perfluoropropane. ✓

31. The method of claim ~~30~~ wherein said agent further comprises an aqueous solution of human protein.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein said agent further comprises an aqueous solution of liposomes.

33. The method of claim 32 wherein said agent further comprises an aqueous solution of microspheres.

34. The method of claim ~~33~~ wherein said agent further comprises a powder and diluent. --

#### REMARKS

Entry of this supplemental preliminary amendment is respectfully requested. After entry of this amendment, claims 15-34 will be pending. An Information Disclosure Statement is also enclosed.

The present invention relates to the identification of certain gases for use in ultrasound contrast which have improved persistence in the body. The gases, of which fluorine-containing gases are preferred, can be used per se (as "free gas microbubbles") or can be adopted into known carriers such as albumin microspheres, solid particles or phospholipid liposomes.

More specific support for the new claims is as follows:

Claims 15, 20, 25 and 30 are supported at Table II, pages 28-29 which lists perfluoropropane,

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(octafluoropropane), perfluorobutane (decafluorobutane) and perfluoropentane (dodecafluoropentane). Perfluorohexane is supported by adding one  $-CF_2-$  to perfluoro-n-pentane as disclosed at page 27, lines 7-15 and in Example 6 at page 40.

Claims 16, 21, 26 and 31 are supported at page 17, lines 16-26.

Claims 17, 22, 27 and 32 are supported at page 15, lines 34-35 and page 16, lines 1-13.

Claims 18, 23, 28 and 33 are supported at page 12, lines 11-23.

Claims 19, 24, 29 and 34 are supported at page 15, lines 1-6.

Claims relating to these gases have already issued to the assignee of the present application as follows: U.S. Patent Nos. 5,393,524; 5,573,751; 5,409,688; 5,558,094 and 5,558,854.

Applicant has the following cases pending in which there are claims which reference these gases as follows: 08/745,256; 08/710,849; 08/466,104; 08/646,910 and 08/770,522.


Applicant is prepared to provide the appropriate terminal disclaimers upon indication of allowable subject matter.

Early and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LIMBACH & LIMBACH L.L.P.

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W. Patrick Bengtsson  
Registration No. 32,456

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Attorney for Applicant